Protest by Export Promotion Council for "handicrafts over hike in bank service charges

990. SHRI MURUDHAR CHAND-RAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether the Export Promotion Council for handicrafts has strongly protested against the recent increase in bank service charges announced by the public sector banks;

:(b) if so, what was the rise in bank Service charges announced; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI); (a) to (c) Public sector banks have revised their service charges with effect from 1-7-90 taking into ac count the cost of inputs in relation to the service rendered by them. The charges have been increased in respect of certain services such as processing of applications for advances exceeding Rs. 2 lakhs, remit tances of drafts/Mail Transfers/Telegra phic Transfers beyond Rs. 2500/-, MICR cheque books (excluding savings bank accounts of individuals), issue of duplicate statements of accounts and duplicate pass books, inland guarantees, stop payment instructions, standing instructions, etc. Some representations have been received by Government against the above increase. Since the revisions are related to cost inputs of banks in relation to their services, no immediate re-examination is contemplated.

Assocham's draeand for uniformity on leives & taxes on diffierent times

991. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHAND-RAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether the ASSOCHAM, while welcoming Government's notification mak-ing it obligatory to mark the maximum retail prices including sales tax and other taxes on all packed items, had demanded uniformity in levies and taxes so as to ensure uniform rates of different items throughout the country; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI); (a) and (b) Implications of J the proposal made by ASSOCHAM are being studied in consultation with the Collectors of Central Excise, It will take time.

Closure of barnches of Nationalised banks operating in J & K State

992. SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that all the nationalised banks in Jammu and Kashmir except Jammu and Kashmir Bank are virtually closed as the staff members, except class IV employees who are Kashmiris, have migrated from the Valley;

(b) if so, what arrangements Government have made for the customers who maintain accounts in these banks; and

(c) what measures have been " taken by Government for the safety and security of these bank employees, who were forced to leave their duties, so that they return back to join their duties?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF" FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI); (a) No, Sir. In -the State of-Jammu &-Kashmir, most of the branches of public sector banks are functioning except some branches in the Kashmir Valley. In the Kashmir Valley, 52 branches of public sector banks were functioning in a limited manner during the week ended on 4.8.90, as reported by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

(b) RBI has issued instructions to Bank to ensure that their branches in

J & K State function to the maximum pos sible extent and for expeditious disposal o applications for transfer of accounts fror. the Valley, if so desired by the customers

(c) Government have issued instruc tions to all commercial banks to giv compensatory facilities like special com pensatory allowance and pool accomods tion to the staff with adequate security.

Decline in snare of Kerala in inconn tax, excise duty etc,

993. SHRI E. BALANANDAN; Wil the Minister of FINANCE be pleased 6 state:

Ca) whether Government are aware tha the percentage share of Kerala in respec of income-tax, excise duty and additiona excise duty came down perceptibly as result of the norms adopted by the Nintl Finance Commission;

(b) whether Government propose ti take steps to rectify this position; and

(c) if 'so, what are the details thereof

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANII SHASTRI): (a) As compared to thi Eighth Finance Commission's award, th share of Kerala in respect of income tax duty & additional excise duty has com< down under the award of Ninth Finana Commission as shown below-

	Percentag sshaie	
	Eighth Finance Com- mission	Ninth Finance Com- mission
Income Tax	3.760	3.72
Excise Duty	3.800	3.08
Additional Excise Dutt	*%.Q6Z*	3 79

(b) and (c) The recommendation of the Ninth Finance Commissio (Second Report) for the Ave years period commencing: from 1st of April 1950 have already been accepted bj the Government

Disposal of the Appeal Against the balance demand from Chairman Express Group of Newspapers

994. SHRI SATYA PRAKASI MALAVIYA: (Will the Minister o FINANCE be pleased to refer to th answer to Unstarred Question 244 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 16t' March, 1989 and state:

(a) whether the appeal against tb balance demand of Rs. 26,82,164 fron the Chairman, Indian Express Grou] of Newspapers has been disposed of

(b) if so, whether the recovery ha since been made; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons fo such undue delay?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THI MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHR ANIL SHASTRI): (a) The aeman< of Rs. 26,82,164 referred to in thi question was not due from the Chair man, Indian Express Group of News papers but was tlue from Indian Ex press Newspapers (.Bombay) Pvt Ltd. Appeals against this demanc have been disposed of by the Corranis sioner (Appeals). After disposal o appeals, this demand lias been re duced to Rs. 2,93,914.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The appeals were decided or 13.6.1990. After receipt of the appel late orders, the Assessing Officer hai recently served (revised demand no> tices on the assgssee.

Misuse of loans given by banks te the Chairman, Express Group

995. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1012 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 2nd March,i '1989' and state:

(a) whether the appeal against the disallowance of certain losses shown bv the Chairman. Indian Exnress